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STAR BRAND
5...4...3...2...1...

TAKING CHARGE!

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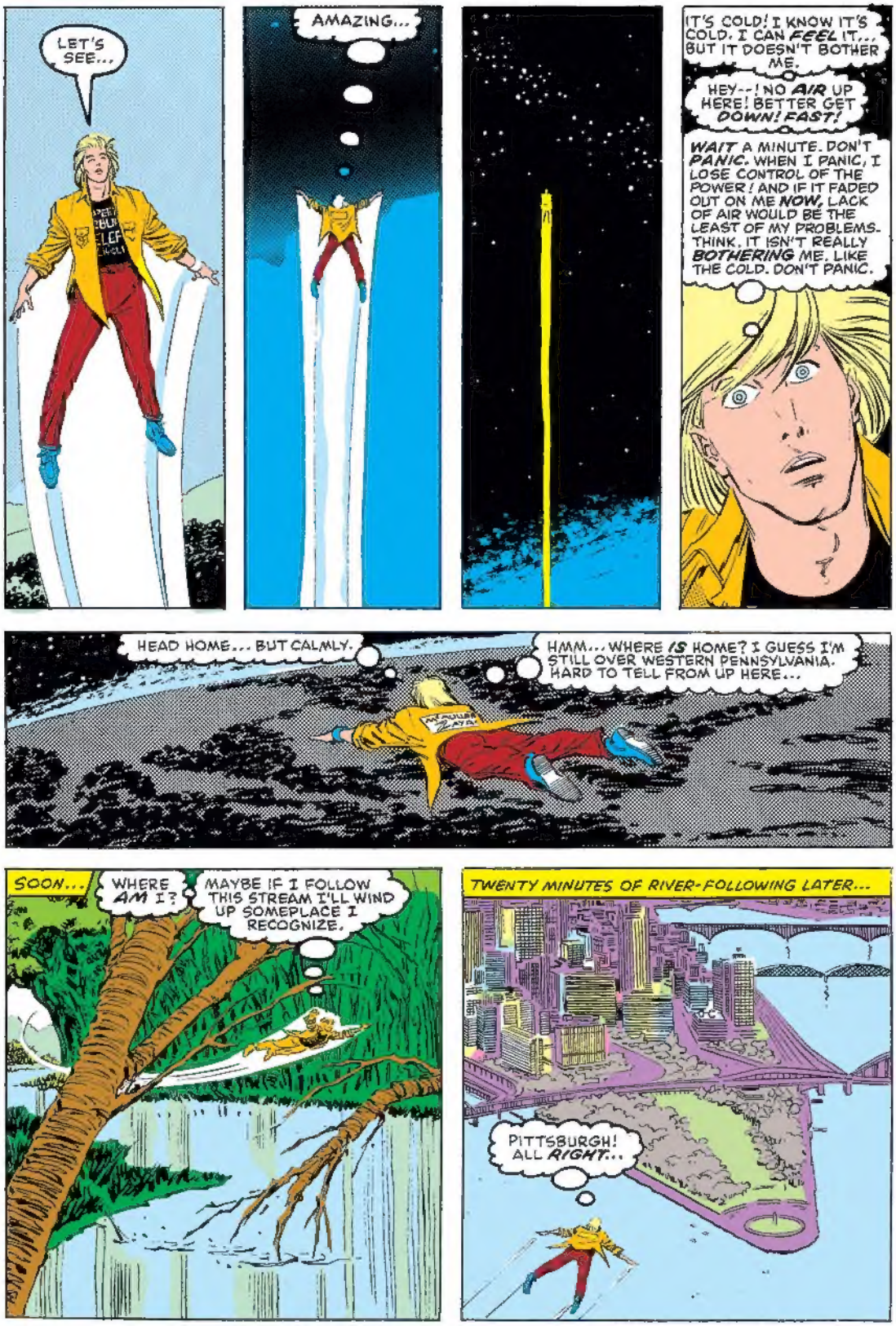
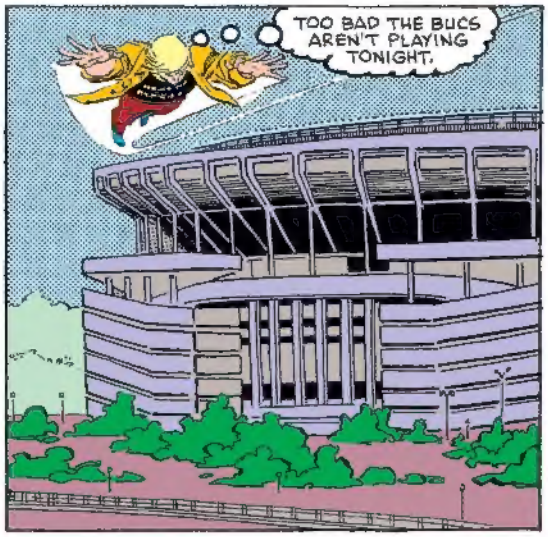
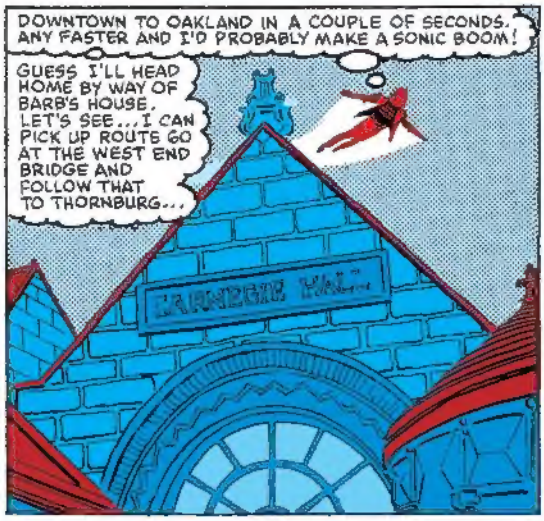
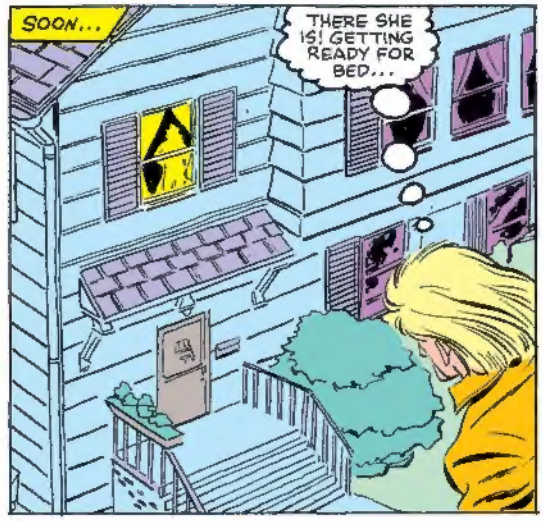

LET'S SEE...
AMAZING...
IT'S COLD! I KNOW IT'S COLD. I CAN *FEEL* IT... BUT IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME.
HEY--! NO *AIR* UP HERE! BETTER GET *DOWN! FAST!*
WAIT A MINUTE. DON'T *PANIC.* WHEN I PANIC, I LOSE CONTROL OF THE POWER! AND IF IT FADED OUT ON ME *NOW,* LACK OF AIR WOULD BE THE LEAST OF MY PROBLEMS. THINK. IT ISN'T REALLY *BOTHERING* ME. LIKE THE COLD. DON'T PANIC.
HEAD HOME... BUT CALMLY.
HMM... WHERE *IS* HOME? I GUESS I'M STILL OVER WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA. HARD TO TELL FROM UP HERE...
SOON...
WHERE *AM* I?
MAYBE IF I FOLLOW THIS STREAM I'LL WIND UP SOMEPLACE I RECOGNIZE.
TWENTY MINUTES OF RIVER-FOLLOWING LATER...
PITTSBURGH! ALL *RIGHT...*


TOO BAD THE BUCS AREN'T PLAYING TONIGHT.

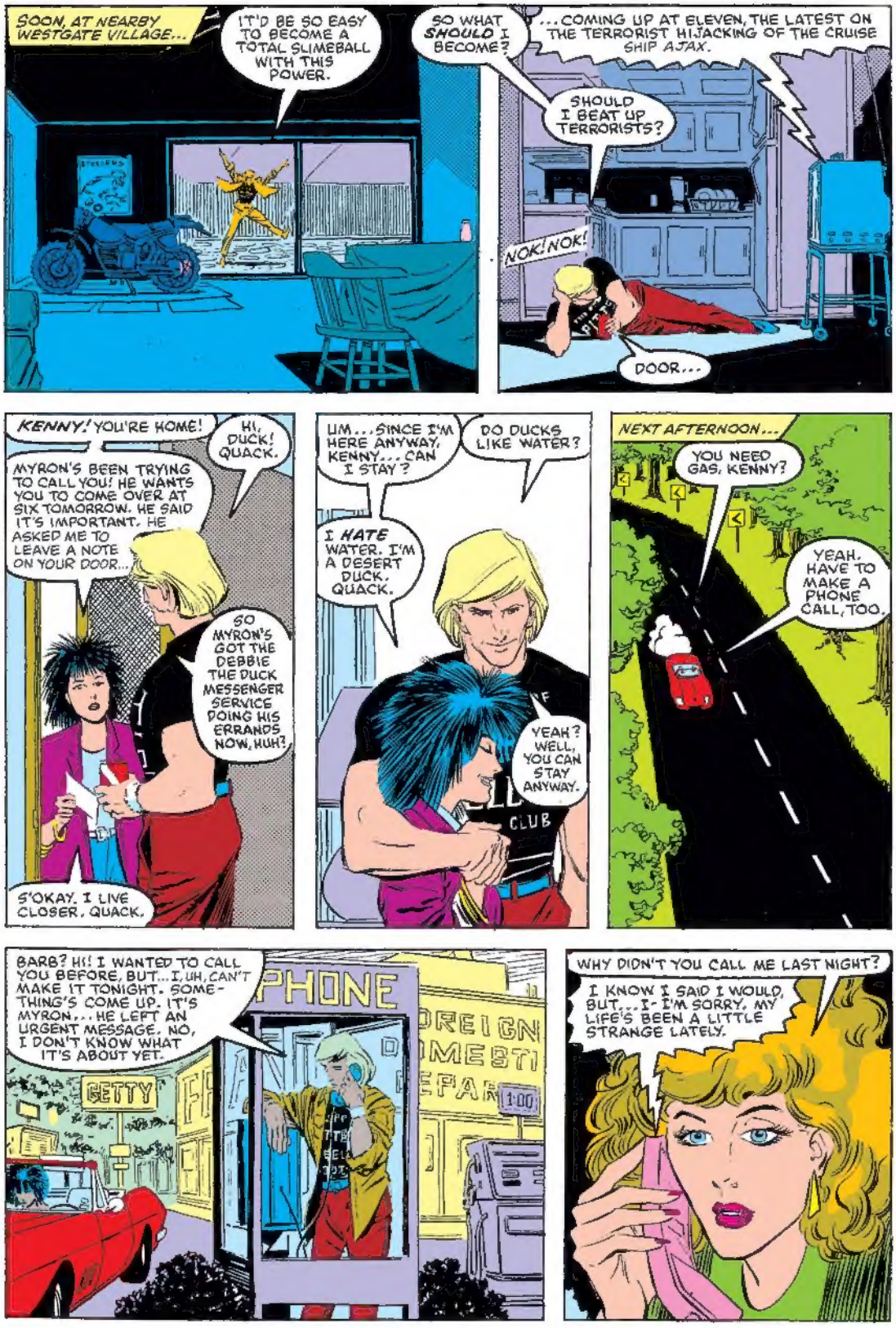
GOING INTO SPACE IS ALL RIGHT, BUT FLYING AROUND DOWN HERE'S MORE FUN!
PRETTY NEAT.

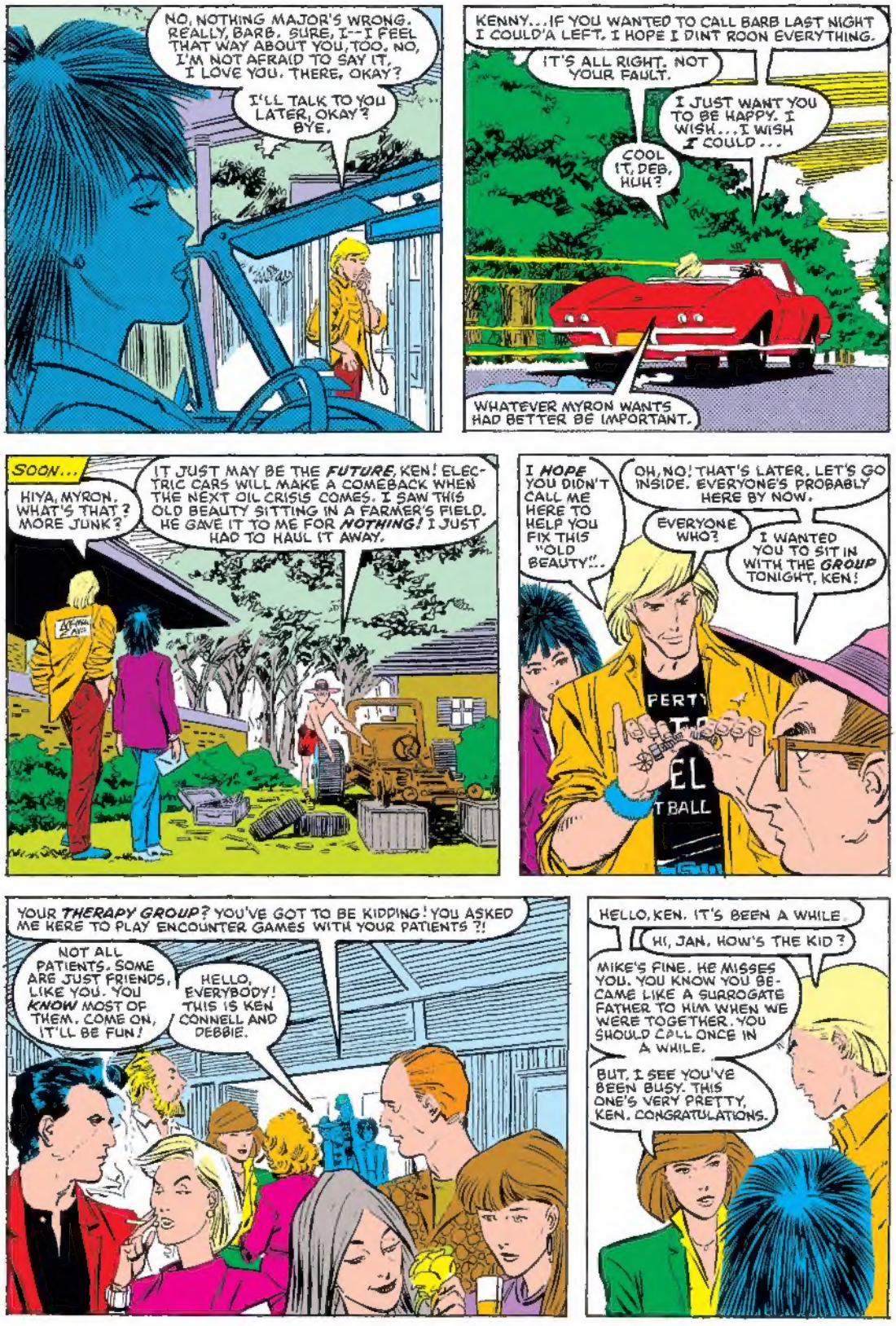

DOWNTOWN TO OAKLAND IN A COUPLE OF SECONDS. ANY FASTER AND I'D PROBABLY MAKE A SONIC BOOM!
GUESS I'LL HEAD HOME BY WAY OF BARB'S HOUSE. LET'S SEE... I CAN PICK UP ROUTE 60 AT THE WEST END BRIDGE AND FOLLOW THAT TO THORNBURG...

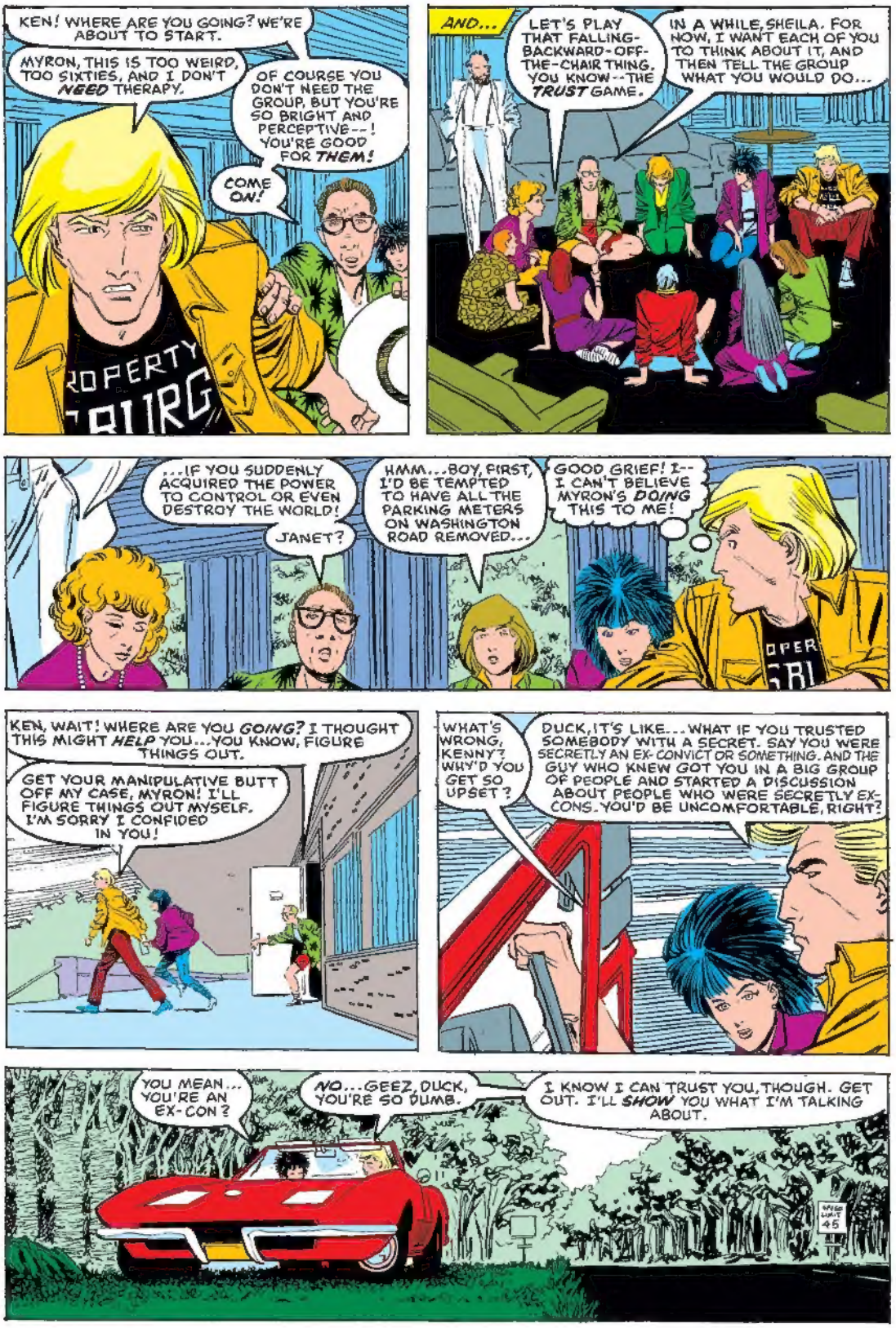

SOON...
THERE SHE IS! GETTING READY FOR BED...

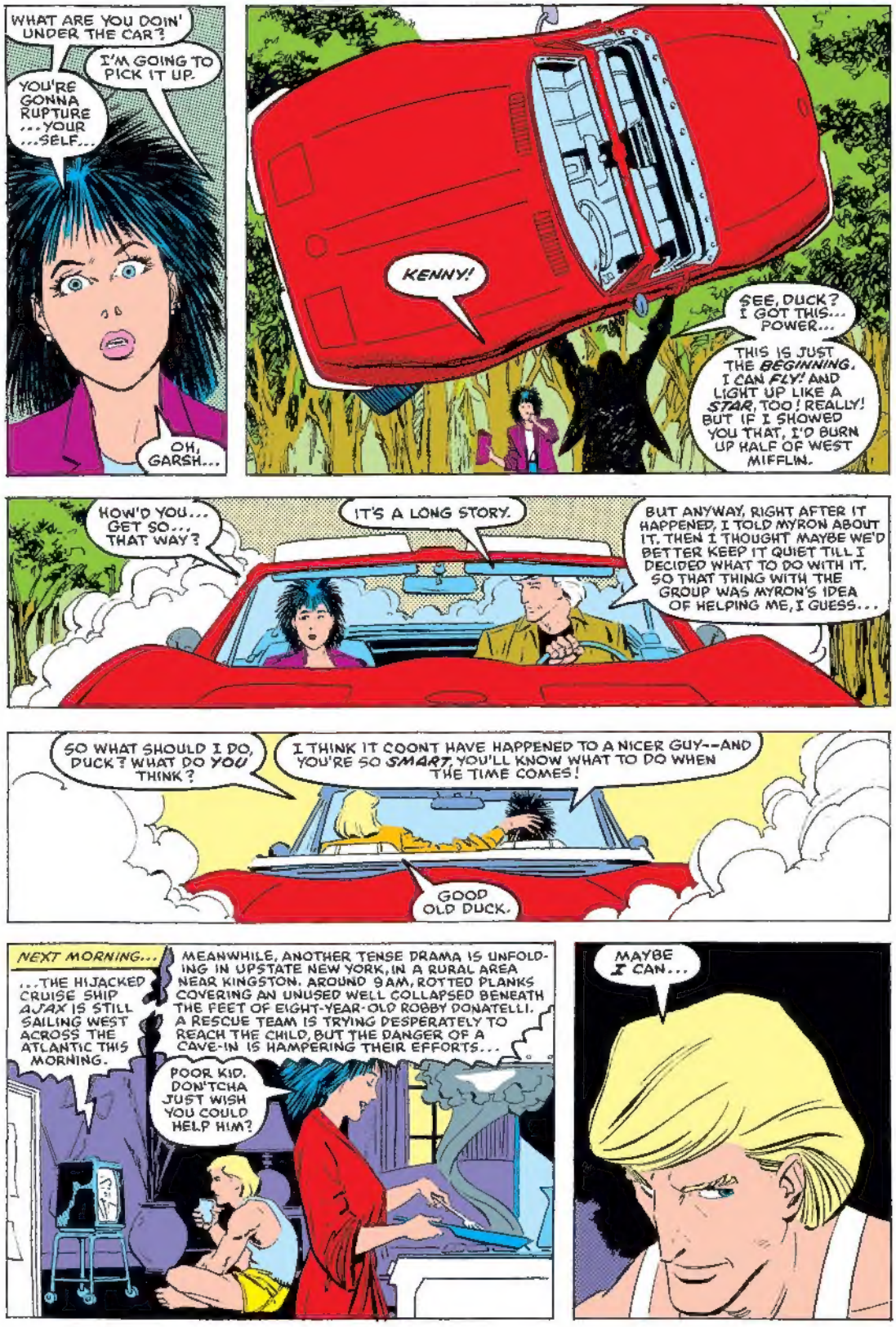
WHOA... SO NICE... YUM...

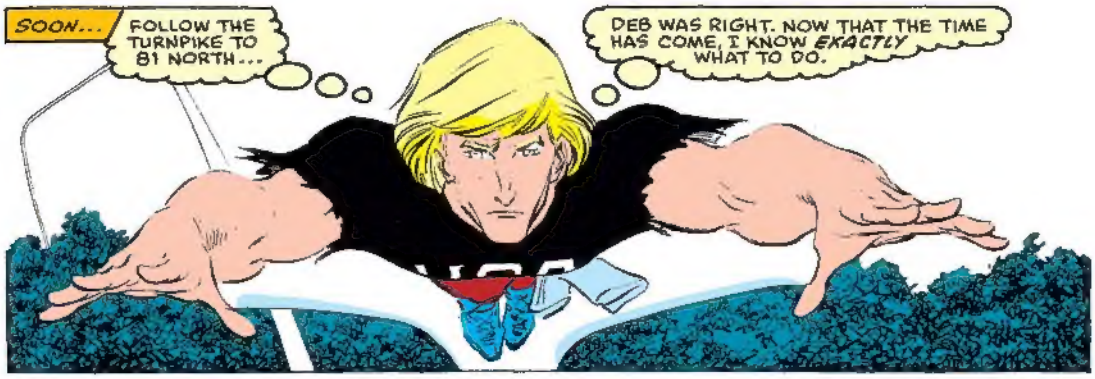
WHAT AM I DOING? THIS ISN'T... RIGHT!
TACKY... VERY TACKY.
GET OUT OF HERE! HOME...
JERK...


SOON, AT NEARBY WESTGATE VILLAGE...
IT'D BE SO EASY TO BECOME A TOTAL SLIMEBALL WITH THIS POWER.
SO WHAT SHOULD I BECOME?
...COMING UP AT ELEVEN, THE LATEST ON THE TERRORIST HIJACKING OF THE CRUISE SHIP AJAX.
SHOULD I BEAT UP TERRORISTS?
NOK! NOK!
DOOR...
KENNY! YOU'RE HOME!
HI, DUCK! QUACK.
MYRON'S BEEN TRYING TO CALL YOU! HE WANTS YOU TO COME OVER AT SIX TOMORROW. HE SAID IT'S IMPORTANT. HE ASKED ME TO LEAVE A NOTE ON YOUR DOOR...
SO MYRON'S GOT THE DEBBIE THE DUCK MESSENGER SERVICE DOING HIS ERRANDS NOW, HUH?
S'OKAY. I LIVE CLOSER. QUACK.
UM... SINCE I'M HERE ANYWAY, KENNY... CAN I STAY?
DO DUCKS LIKE WATER?
I HATE WATER. I'M A DESERT DUCK. QUACK.
YEAH? WELL, YOU CAN STAY ANYWAY.
CLUB
NEXT AFTERNOON...
YOU NEED GAS, KENNY?
YEAH. HAVE TO MAKE A PHONE CALL, TOO.
BARB? HI! I WANTED TO CALL YOU BEFORE, BUT... I, UH, CAN'T MAKE IT TONIGHT. SOMETHING'S COME UP. IT'S MYRON... HE LEFT AN URGENT MESSAGE. NO, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S ABOUT YET.
PHONE
GETTY
WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL ME LAST NIGHT?
I KNOW I SAID I WOULD, BUT... I- I'M SORRY. MY LIFE'S BEEN A LITTLE STRANGE LATELY.

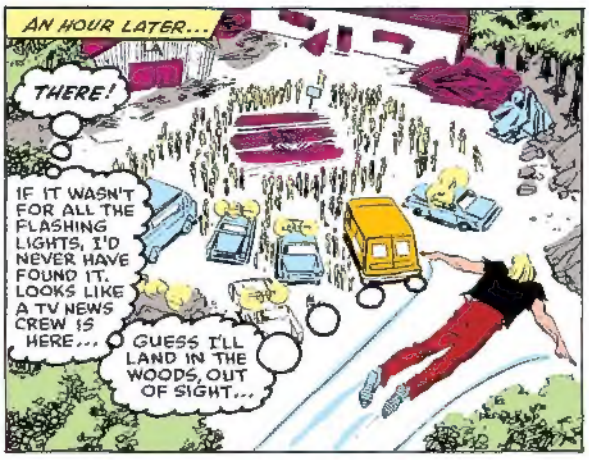

NO, NOTHING MAJOR'S WRONG. REALLY, BARB. SURE, I--I FEEL THAT WAY ABOUT YOU, TOO. NO, I'M NOT AFRAID TO SAY IT, I LOVE YOU. THERE, OKAY?
I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER, OKAY? BYE.
KENNY...IF YOU WANTED TO CALL BARB LAST NIGHT I COULD'A LEFT. I HOPE I DINT ROON EVERYTHING.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. NOT YOUR FAULT.
I JUST WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY. I WISH...I WISH I COULD...
COOL IT, DEB, HUH?
WHATEVER MYRON WANTS HAD BETTER BE IMPORTANT.
SOON...
HIYA, MYRON. WHAT'S THAT? MORE JUNK?
IT JUST MAY BE THE FUTURE, KEN! ELECTRIC CARS WILL MAKE A COMEBACK WHEN THE NEXT OIL CRISIS COMES. I SAW THIS OLD BEAUTY SITTING IN A FARMER'S FIELD. HE GAVE IT TO ME FOR NOTHING! I JUST HAD TO HAUL IT AWAY.
I HOPE YOU DIDN'T CALL ME HERE TO HELP YOU FIX THIS "OLD BEAUTY"...
OH, NO! THAT'S LATER. LET'S GO INSIDE. EVERYONE'S PROBABLY HERE BY NOW.
EVERYONE WHO?
I WANTED YOU TO SIT IN WITH THE GROUP TONIGHT, KEN!
YOUR THERAPY GROUP? YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING! YOU ASKED ME HERE TO PLAY ENCOUNTER GAMES WITH YOUR PATIENTS?!
NOT ALL PATIENTS. SOME ARE JUST FRIENDS, LIKE YOU. YOU KNOW MOST OF THEM. COME ON, IT'LL BE FUN!
HELLO, EVERYBODY! THIS IS KEN CONNELL AND DEBBIE.
HELLO, KEN. IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
HI, JAN. HOW'S THE KID?
MIKE'S FINE. HE MISSES YOU. YOU KNOW YOU BECAME LIKE A SURROGATE FATHER TO HIM WHEN WE WERE TOGETHER. YOU SHOULD CALL ONCE IN A WHILE.
BUT, I SEE YOU'VE BEEN BUSY. THIS ONE'S VERY PRETTY, KEN. CONGRATULATIONS.

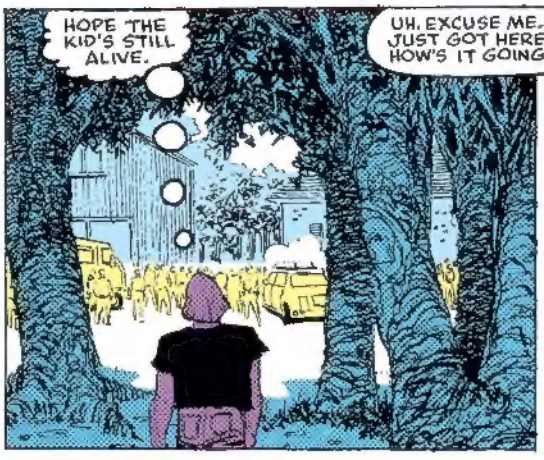

KEN! WHERE ARE YOU GOING? WE'RE ABOUT TO START.
MYRON, THIS IS TOO WEIRD, TOO SIXTIES, AND I DON'T NEED THERAPY.
OF COURSE YOU DON'T NEED THE GROUP, BUT YOU'RE SO BRIGHT AND PERCEPTIVE--! YOU'RE GOOD FOR THEM!
COME ON!
AND...
LET'S PLAY THAT FALLING-BACKWARD-OFF-THE-CHAIR THING, YOU KNOW--THE TRUST GAME.
IN A WHILE, SHEILA. FOR NOW, I WANT EACH OF YOU TO THINK ABOUT IT, AND THEN TELL THE GROUP WHAT YOU WOULD DO...
...IF YOU SUDDENLY ACQUIRED THE POWER TO CONTROL OR EVEN DESTROY THE WORLD!
JANET?
HMM...BOY, FIRST, I'D BE TEMPTED TO HAVE ALL THE PARKING METERS ON WASHINGTON ROAD REMOVED...
GOOD GRIEF! I--I CAN'T BELIEVE MYRON'S DOING THIS TO ME!
KEN, WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING? I THOUGHT THIS MIGHT HELP YOU...YOU KNOW, FIGURE THINGS OUT.
GET YOUR MANIPULATIVE BUTT OFF MY CASE, MYRON! I'LL FIGURE THINGS OUT MYSELF. I'M SORRY I CONFIDED IN YOU!
WHAT'S WRONG, KENNY? WHY'D YOU GET SO UPSET?
DUCK, IT'S LIKE...WHAT IF YOU TRUSTED SOMEBODY WITH A SECRET. SAY YOU WERE SECRETLY AN EX-CONVICT OR SOMETHING. AND THE GUY WHO KNEW GOT YOU IN A BIG GROUP OF PEOPLE AND STARTED A DISCUSSION ABOUT PEOPLE WHO WERE SECRETLY EX-CONS. YOU'D BE UNCOMFORTABLE, RIGHT?
YOU MEAN... YOU'RE AN EX-CON?
NO...GEEZ, DUCK, YOU'RE SO DUMB.
I KNOW I CAN TRUST YOU, THOUGH. GET OUT. I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.
WIGWAM 45

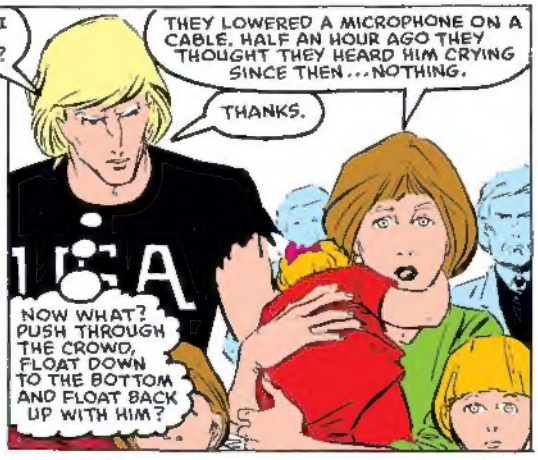

WHAT ARE YOU DOIN' UNDER THE CAR?
I'M GOING TO PICK IT UP.
YOU'RE GONNA RUPTURE ...YOUR ...SELF...
OH, GARSH...
KENNY!
SEE, DUCK? I GOT THIS... POWER...
THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING. I CAN FLY! AND LIGHT UP LIKE A STAR, TOO! REALLY! BUT IF I SHOWED YOU THAT, I'D BURN UP HALF OF WEST MIFFLIN.
HOW'D YOU... GET SO... THAT WAY?
IT'S A LONG STORY.
BUT ANYWAY, RIGHT AFTER IT HAPPENED, I TOLD MYRON ABOUT IT. THEN I THOUGHT MAYBE WE'D BETTER KEEP IT QUIET TILL I DECIDED WHAT TO DO WITH IT. SO THAT THING WITH THE GROUP WAS MYRON'S IDEA OF HELPING ME, I GUESS...
SO WHAT SHOULD I DO, DUCK? WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I THINK IT COONT HAVE HAPPENED TO A NICER GUY--AND YOU'RE SO SMART, YOU'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN THE TIME COMES!
GOOD OLD DUCK.
NEXT MORNING...
...THE HIJACKED CRUISE SHIP AJAX IS STILL SAILING WEST ACROSS THE ATLANTIC THIS MORNING.
MEANWHILE, ANOTHER TENSE DRAMA IS UNFOLDING IN UPSTATE NEW YORK, IN A RURAL AREA NEAR KINGSTON. AROUND 9 AM, ROTTED PLANKS COVERING AN UNUSED WELL COLLAPSED BENEATH THE FEET OF EIGHT-YEAR-OLD ROBBY DONATELLI. A RESCUE TEAM IS TRYING DESPERATELY TO REACH THE CHILD, BUT THE DANGER OF A CAVE-IN IS HAMPERING THEIR EFFORTS...
POOR KID. DON'TCHA JUST WISH YOU COULD HELP HIM?
MAYBE I CAN...


SOON...
FOLLOW THE TURNPIKE TO 81 NORTH...
DEB WAS RIGHT. NOW THAT THE TIME HAS COME, I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT TO DO.

IF I CAN FIND THE PLACE...
THIS EASTERN U.S. MAP ISN'T VERY DETAILED...AND I'M ALREADY OFF THE PENNSYLVANIA MAP. HMM...
USA


AN HOUR LATER...
THERE!
IF IT WASN'T FOR ALL THE FLASHING LIGHTS, I'D NEVER HAVE FOUND IT. LOOKS LIKE A TV NEWS CREW IS HERE...
GUESS I'LL LAND IN THE WOODS, OUT OF SIGHT...

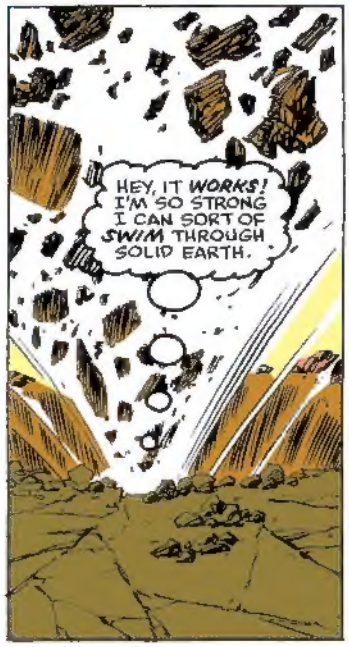

HOPE THE KID'S STILL ALIVE.
UH. EXCUSE ME. I JUST GOT HERE. HOW'S IT GOING?


THEY LOWERED A MICROPHONE ON A CABLE. HALF AN HOUR AGO THEY THOUGHT THEY HEARD HIM CRYING SINCE THEN...NOTHING.
THANKS.
NOW WHAT? PUSH THROUGH THE CROWD, FLOAT DOWN TO THE BOTTOM AND FLOAT BACK UP WITH HIM?

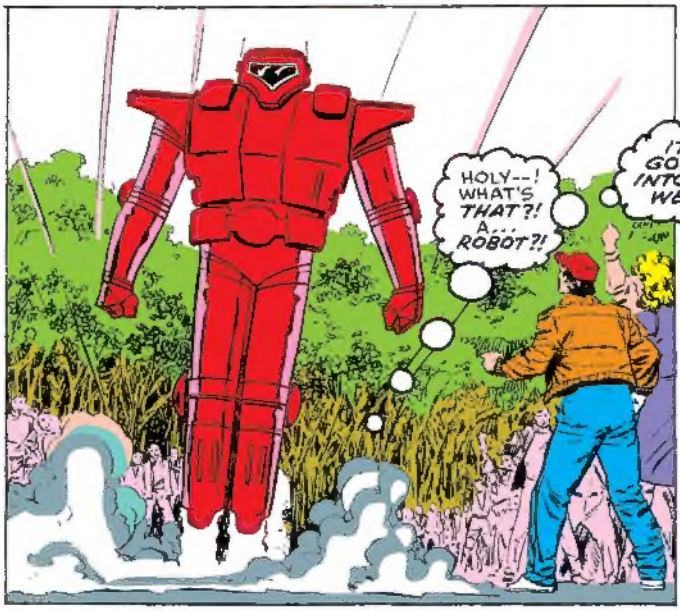
SOUNDS EASY. BUT THEN...PRETTY SOON EVERYONE IN THE WORLD WILL KNOW THAT I CAN FLY. INSTANT STARDOM. WE'RE TALKING MAJOR CHANGES IN MY LIFE. IS THAT WHAT I WANT?

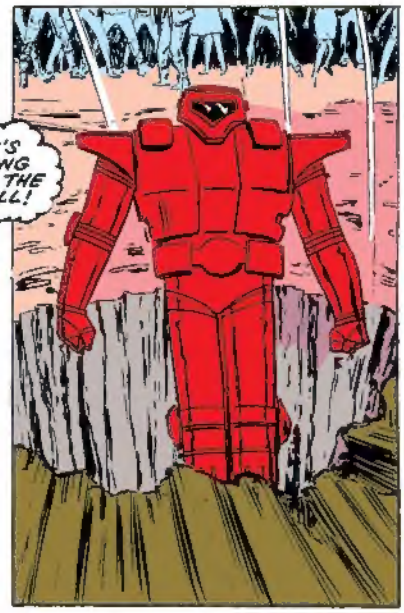
IT MIGHT BE WORTH IT IF I SAVED HIS LIFE. BUT WHAT IF HE'S ALREADY *DEAD*? OR WHAT IF HE'S BADLY HURT AND BY MOVING HIM I CRIPPLE HIM PERMANENTLY...OR *KILL* HIM?
THIS IS MORE COMPLICATED THAN I THOUGHT...
WAIT! I HAVE AN IDEA!
I'LL JUST ZIP BACK INTO THE WOODS WHILE NOBODY'S LOOKING...

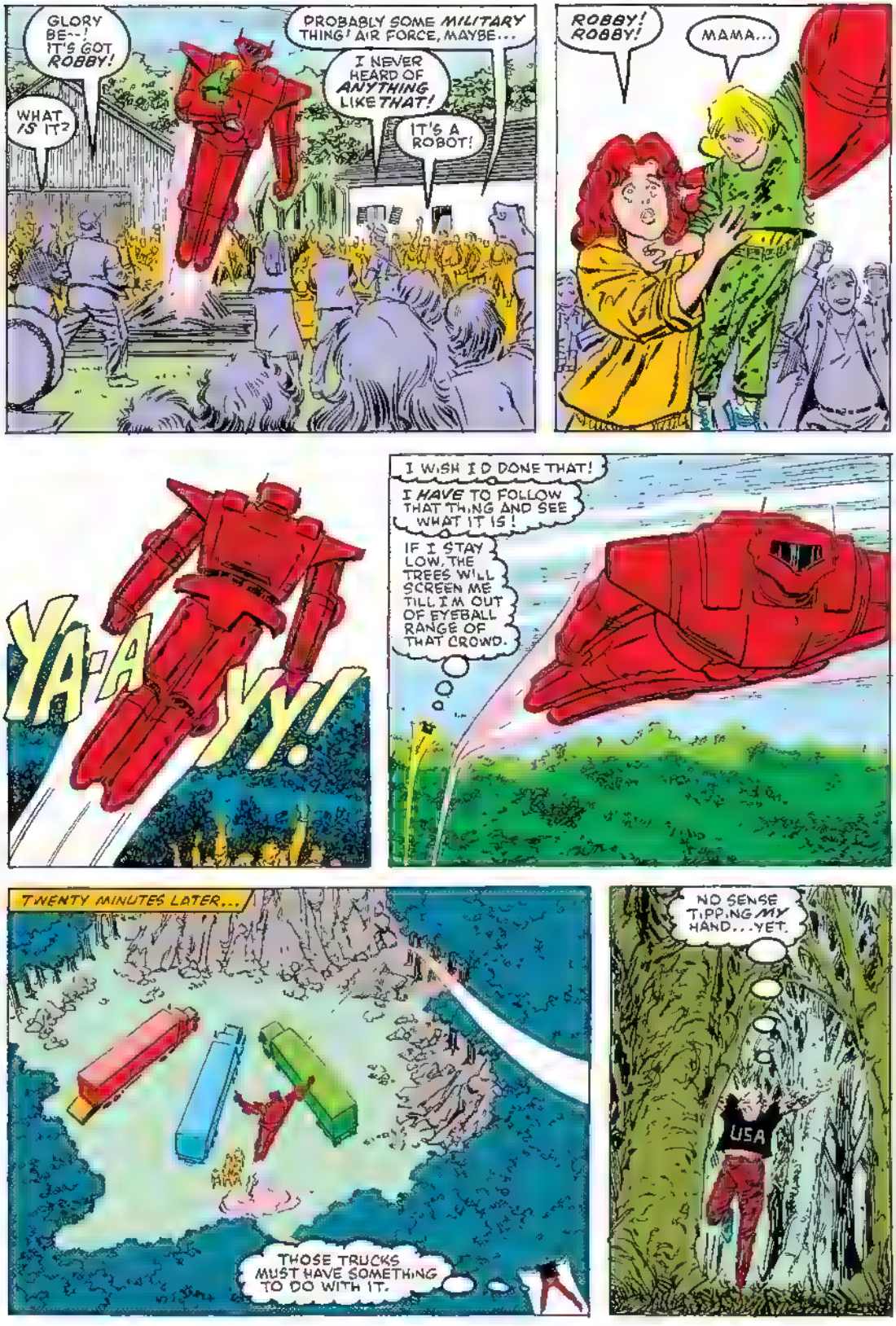
MAYBE I CAN *TUNNEL* DOWN TO THE KID... SEE IF HE'S ALIVE, WITHOUT ANYBODY SEEING *ME*. IF HE IS, I'LL BRING HIM UP. IF NOT, I'LL LEAVE THE WAY I CAME, NO ONE THE WISER.

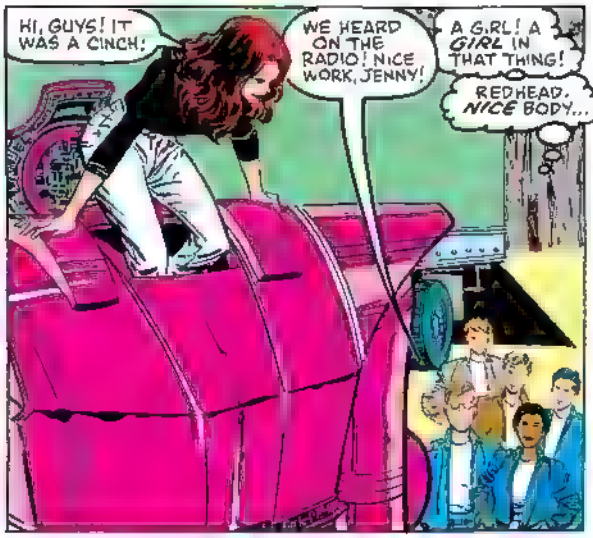

HEY, IT *WORKS!* I'M SO STRONG I CAN SORT OF *SWIM* THROUGH SOLID EARTH.

CAN'T SEE WHERE I'M GOING, THOUGH. *BLUHH! PHFF! YUCHH!*
I'LL HAVE TO GO DOWN THE WELL. MAYBE I CAN FIND A BAG TO PUT OVER MY HEAD.
STUPID. STUPID. STUPID.
HMP. WHY BOTHER? I'M SO COVERED WITH MUD EVEN MUM AND DAD WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE ME.
USA
OKAY, SO THE WORLD WILL KNOW *SOMEONE* CAN FLY...

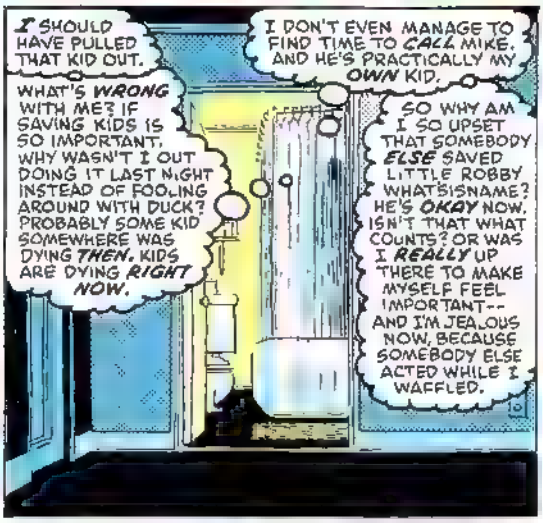

HOLY--! WHAT'S *THAT*?! A... *ROBOT*?!
IT'S GOING INTO THE WELL!

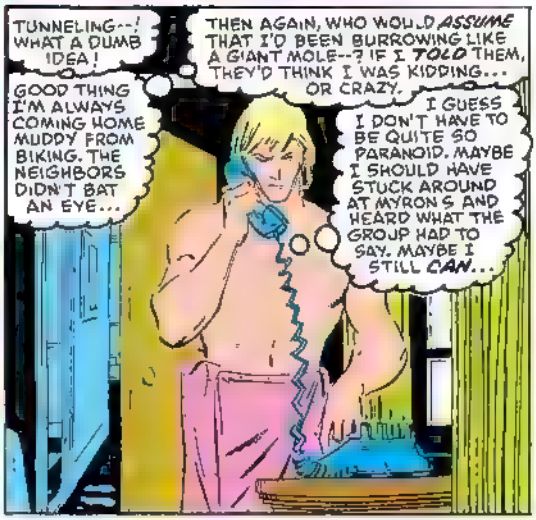


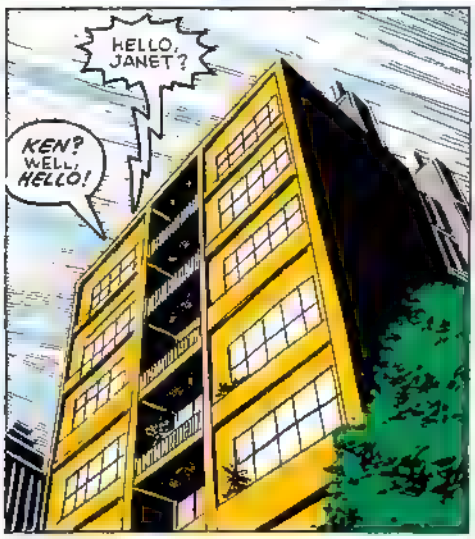

GLORY BE--! IT'S GOT ROBBY!
WHAT IS IT?
PROBABLY SOME MILITARY THING! AIR FORCE, MAYBE...
I NEVER HEARD OF ANYTHING LIKE THAT!
IT'S A ROBOT!
ROBBY! ROBBY!
MAMA...
YA-AAYY!
I WISH I'D DONE THAT!
I HAVE TO FOLLOW THAT THING AND SEE WHAT IT IS!
IF I STAY LOW, THE TREES WILL SCREEN ME TILL I'M OUT OF EYEBALL RANGE OF THAT CROWD.
TWENTY MINUTES LATER...
HMM
THOSE TRUCKS MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT.
NO SENSE TIPPING MY HAND...YET.
USA

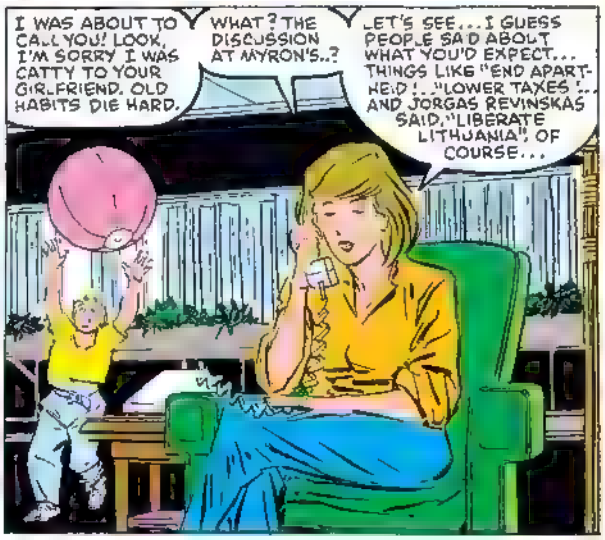

HI, GUYS! IT WAS A CINCH!
WE HEARD ON THE RADIO! NICE WORK, JENNY!
A GIRL! A GIRL IN THAT THING!
REDHEAD. NICE BODY...

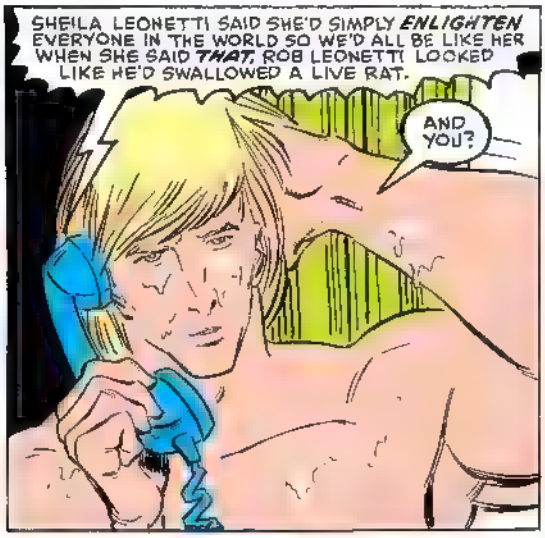
WEIRD. DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF THIS. MAYBE I SHOULD JUST WALK OVER AND ASK.
NAH. I'M A MESS. BETTER HEAD HOME ... BUT I'M GOING TO REMEMBER WHERE THIS PLACE IS.
USA
I HOPE DEB'S GONE BY THE TIME I GET BACK. I MUST LOOK PRETTY STUPID COVERED WITH MUD.

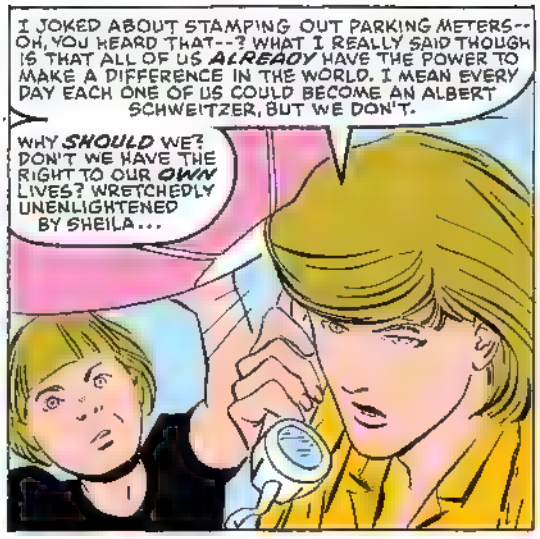

I SHOULD HAVE PULLED THAT KID OUT.
I DON'T EVEN MANAGE TO FIND TIME TO CALL MIKE. AND HE'S PRACTICALLY MY OWN KID.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? IF SAVING KIDS IS SO IMPORTANT, WHY WASN'T I OUT DOING IT LAST NIGHT INSTEAD OF FOOLING AROUND WITH DUCK? PROBABLY SOME KID SOMEWHERE WAS DYING THEN. KIDS ARE DYING RIGHT NOW.
SO WHY AM I SO UPSET THAT SOMEBODY ELSE SAVED LITTLE ROBBY WHATSISNAME? HE'S OKAY NOW. ISN'T THAT WHAT COUNTS? OR WAS I REALLY UP THERE TO MAKE MYSELF FEEL IMPORTANT-- AND I'M JEALOUS NOW, BECAUSE SOMEBODY ELSE ACTED WHILE I WAFFLED.

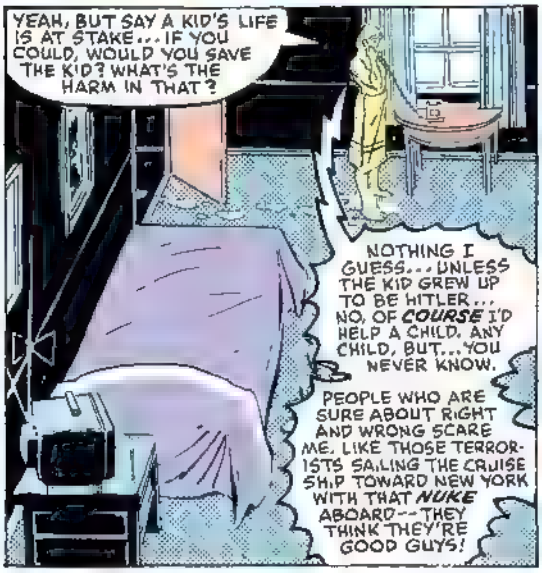

TUNNELING--! WHAT A DUMB IDEA!
THEN AGAIN, WHO WOULD ASSUME THAT I'D BEEN BURROWING LIKE A GIANT MOLE--? IF I TOLD THEM, THEY'D THINK I WAS KIDDING... OR CRAZY.
GOOD THING I'M ALWAYS COMING HOME MUDDY FROM BIKING. THE NEIGHBORS DIDN'T BAT AN EYE...
I GUESS I DON'T HAVE TO BE QUITE SO PARANOID. MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE STUCK AROUND AT MYRON'S AND HEARD WHAT THE GROUP HAD TO SAY. MAYBE I STILL CAN...

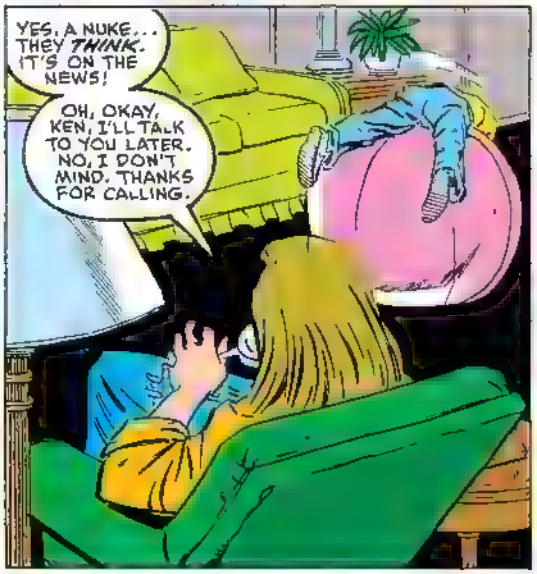

HELLO, JANET?
KEN? WELL, HELLO!

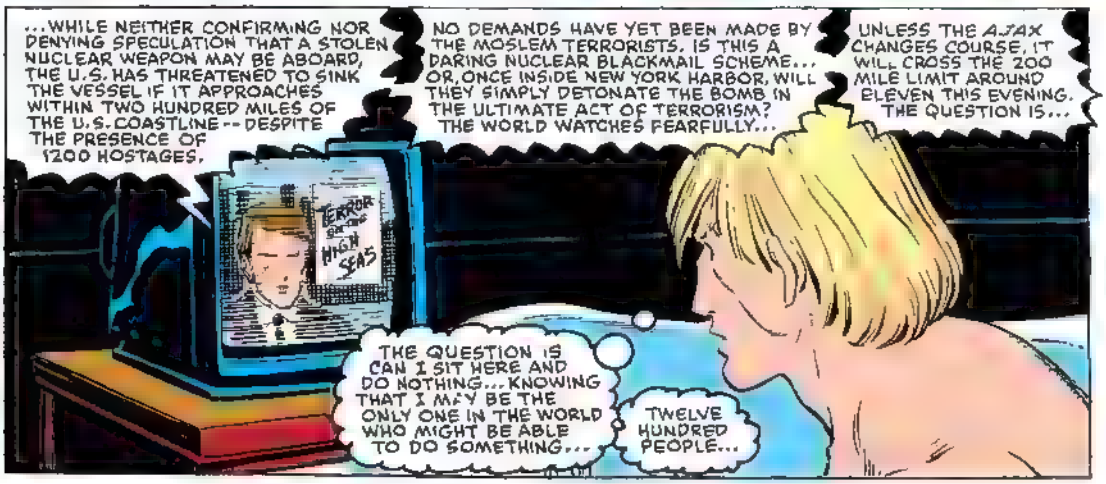

I WAS ABOUT TO CALL YOU! LOOK, I'M SORRY I WAS CATTY TO YOUR GIRLFRIEND. OLD HABITS DIE HARD.
WHAT? THE DISCUSSION AT MYRON'S..?
LET'S SEE... I GUESS PEOPLE SAID ABOUT WHAT YOU'D EXPECT... THINGS LIKE "END APARTHEID!", "LOWER TAXES!"... AND JORGAS REVINSKAS SAID, "LIBERATE LITHUANIA", OF COURSE...

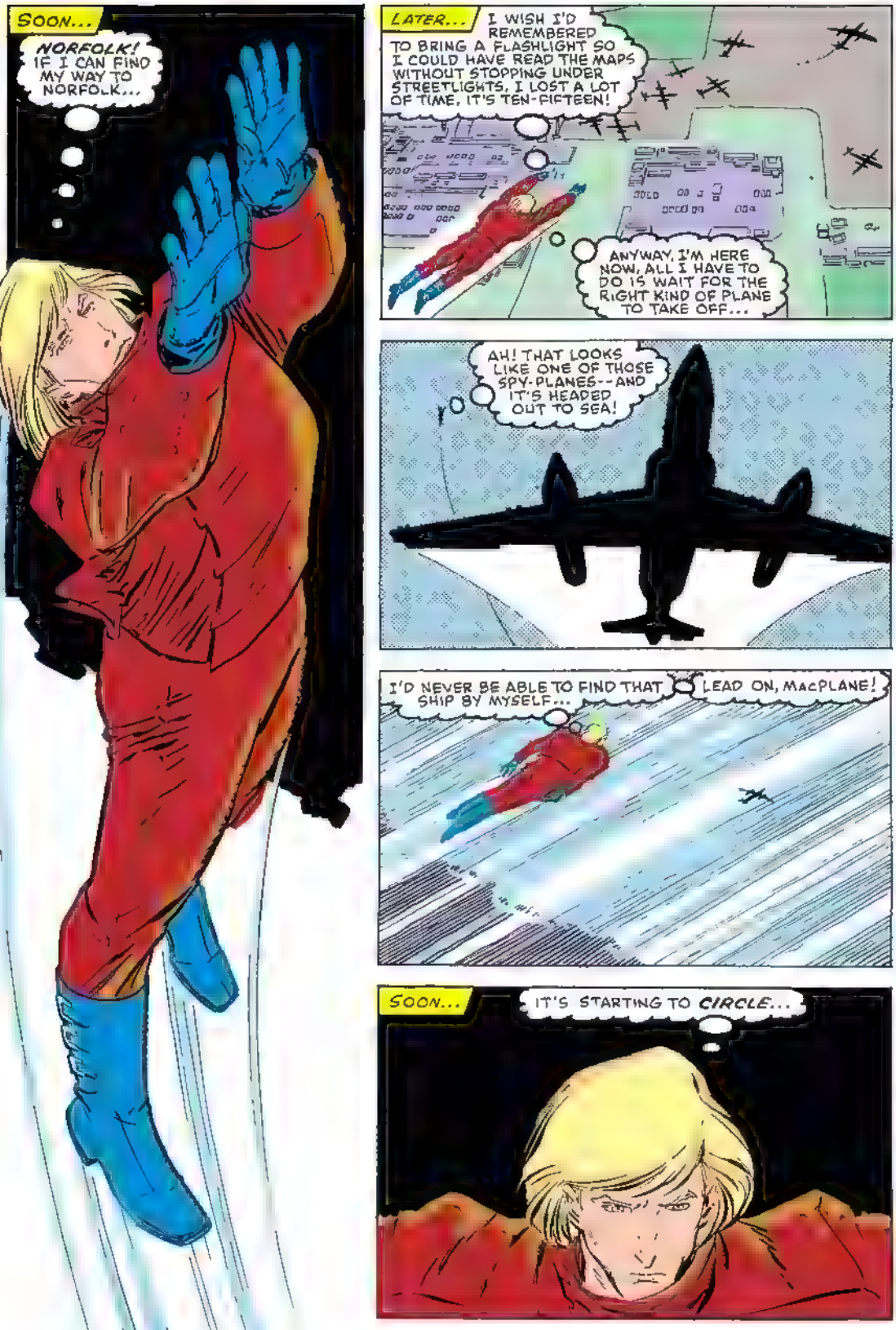

SHEILA LEONETTI SAID SHE'D SIMPLY ENLIGHTEN EVERYONE IN THE WORLD SO WE'D ALL BE LIKE HER WHEN SHE SAID THAT, ROB LEONETTI LOOKED LIKE HE'D SWALLOWED A LIVE RAT.
AND YOU?

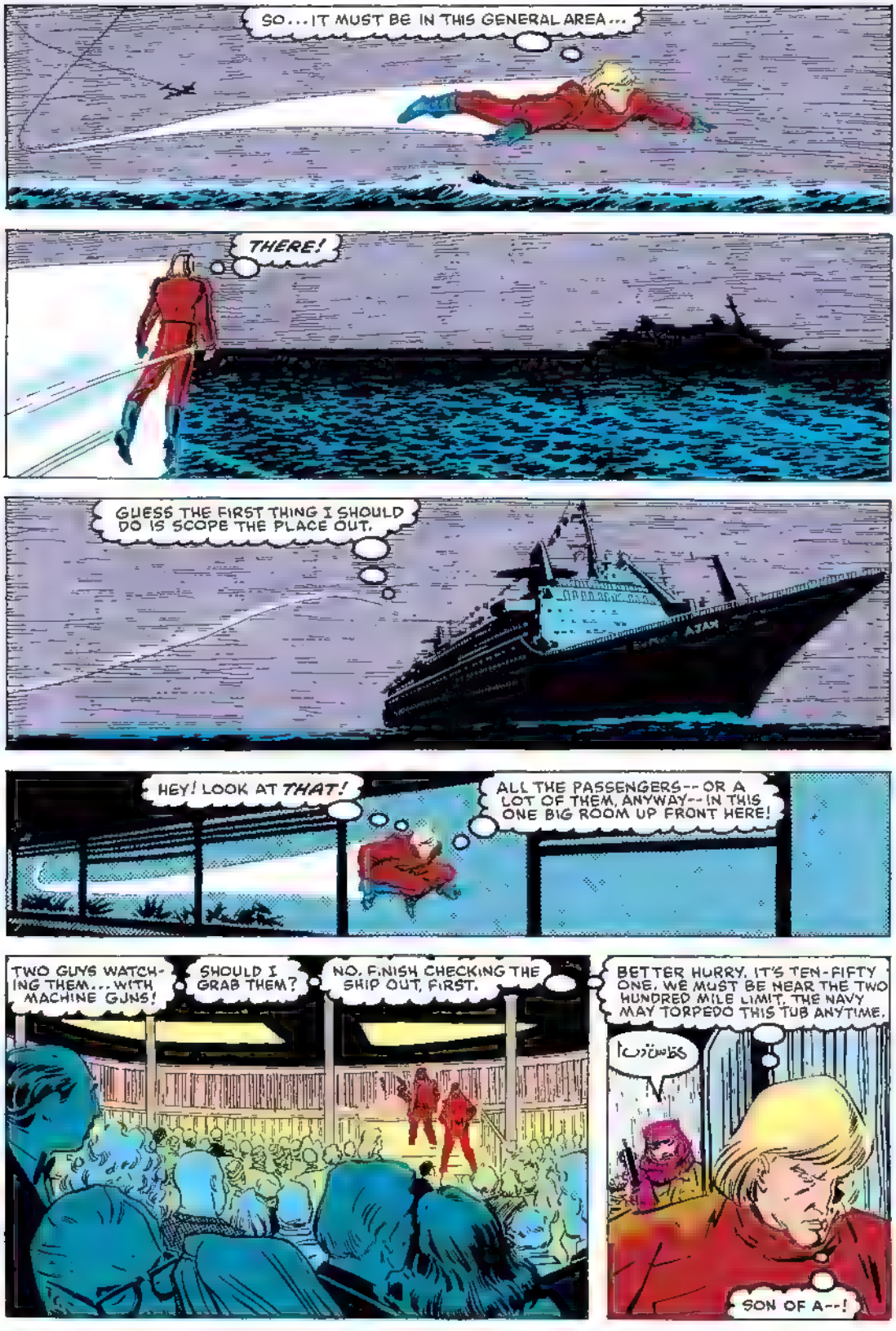

I JOKED ABOUT STAMPING OUT PARKING METERS--OH, YOU HEARD THAT--? WHAT I REALLY SAID THOUGH IS THAT ALL OF US ALREADY HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD. I MEAN EVERY DAY EACH ONE OF US COULD BECOME AN ALBERT SCHWEITZER, BUT WE DON'T.
WHY SHOULD WE? DON'T WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO OUR OWN LIVES? WRETCHEDLY UNENLIGHTENED BY SHEILA...


YEAH, BUT SAY A KID'S LIFE IS AT STAKE... IF YOU COULD, WOULD YOU SAVE THE KID? WHAT'S THE HARM IN THAT?
NOTHING I GUESS... UNLESS THE KID GREW UP TO BE HITLER... NO, OF COURSE I'D HELP A CHILD, ANY CHILD, BUT... YOU NEVER KNOW.
PEOPLE WHO ARE SURE ABOUT RIGHT AND WRONG SCARE ME. LIKE THOSE TERRORISTS SAILING THE CRUISE SHIP TOWARD NEW YORK WITH THAT NUKE ABOARD--THEY THINK THEY'RE GOOD GUYS!


YES, A NUKE... THEY THINK. IT'S ON THE NEWS!
OH, OKAY, KEN, I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER. NO, I DON'T MIND. THANKS FOR CALLING.

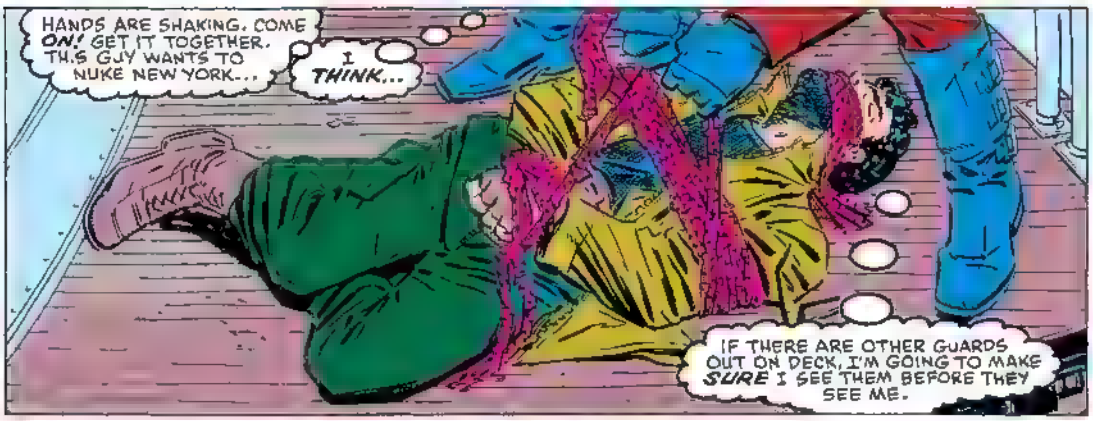

...WHILE NEITHER CONFIRMING NOR DENYING SPECULATION THAT A STOLEN NUCLEAR WEAPON MAY BE ABOARD, THE U.S. HAS THREATENED TO SINK THE VESSEL IF IT APPROACHES WITHIN TWO HUNDRED MILES OF THE U.S. COASTLINE -- DESPITE THE PRESENCE OF 1200 HOSTAGES.
NO DEMANDS HAVE YET BEEN MADE BY THE MOSLEM TERRORISTS. IS THIS A DARING NUCLEAR BLACKMAIL SCHEME... OR, ONCE INSIDE NEW YORK HARBOR, WILL THEY SIMPLY DETONATE THE BOMB IN THE ULTIMATE ACT OF TERRORISM? THE WORLD WATCHES FEARFULLY...
UNLESS THE AJAX CHANGES COURSE, IT WILL CROSS THE 200 MILE LIMIT AROUND ELEVEN THIS EVENING. THE QUESTION IS...
TERROR ON THE HIGH SEAS
THE QUESTION IS CAN I SIT HERE AND DO NOTHING... KNOWING THAT I MAY BE THE ONLY ONE IN THE WORLD WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING...
TWELVE HUNDRED PEOPLE...


SOON...
NORFOLK! IF I CAN FIND MY WAY TO NORFOLK...
LATER...
I WISH I'D REMEMBERED TO BRING A FLASHLIGHT SO I COULD HAVE READ THE MAPS WITHOUT STOPPING UNDER STREETLIGHTS. I LOST A LOT OF TIME. IT'S TEN-FIFTEEN!
ANYWAY, I'M HERE NOW. ALL I HAVE TO DO IS WAIT FOR THE RIGHT KIND OF PLANE TO TAKE OFF...
AH! THAT LOOKS LIKE ONE OF THOSE SPY-PLANES--AND IT'S HEADED OUT TO SEA!
I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO FIND THAT SHIP BY MYSELF...
LEAD ON, MacPLANE!
SOON...
IT'S STARTING TO CIRCLE...


SO...IT MUST BE IN THIS GENERAL AREA...
THERE!
GUESS THE FIRST THING I SHOULD DO IS SCOPE THE PLACE OUT.
AJAX
HEY! LOOK AT THAT!
ALL THE PASSENGERS--OR A LOT OF THEM, ANYWAY--IN THIS ONE BIG ROOM UP FRONT HERE!
TWO GUYS WATCHING THEM...WITH MACHINE GUNS!
SHOULD I GRAB THEM?
NO. FINISH CHECKING THE SHIP OUT, FIRST.
BETTER HURRY. IT'S TEN-FIFTY ONE. WE MUST BE NEAR THE TWO HUNDRED MILE LIMIT. THE NAVY MAY TORPEDO THIS TUB ANYTIME.
SON OF A--!

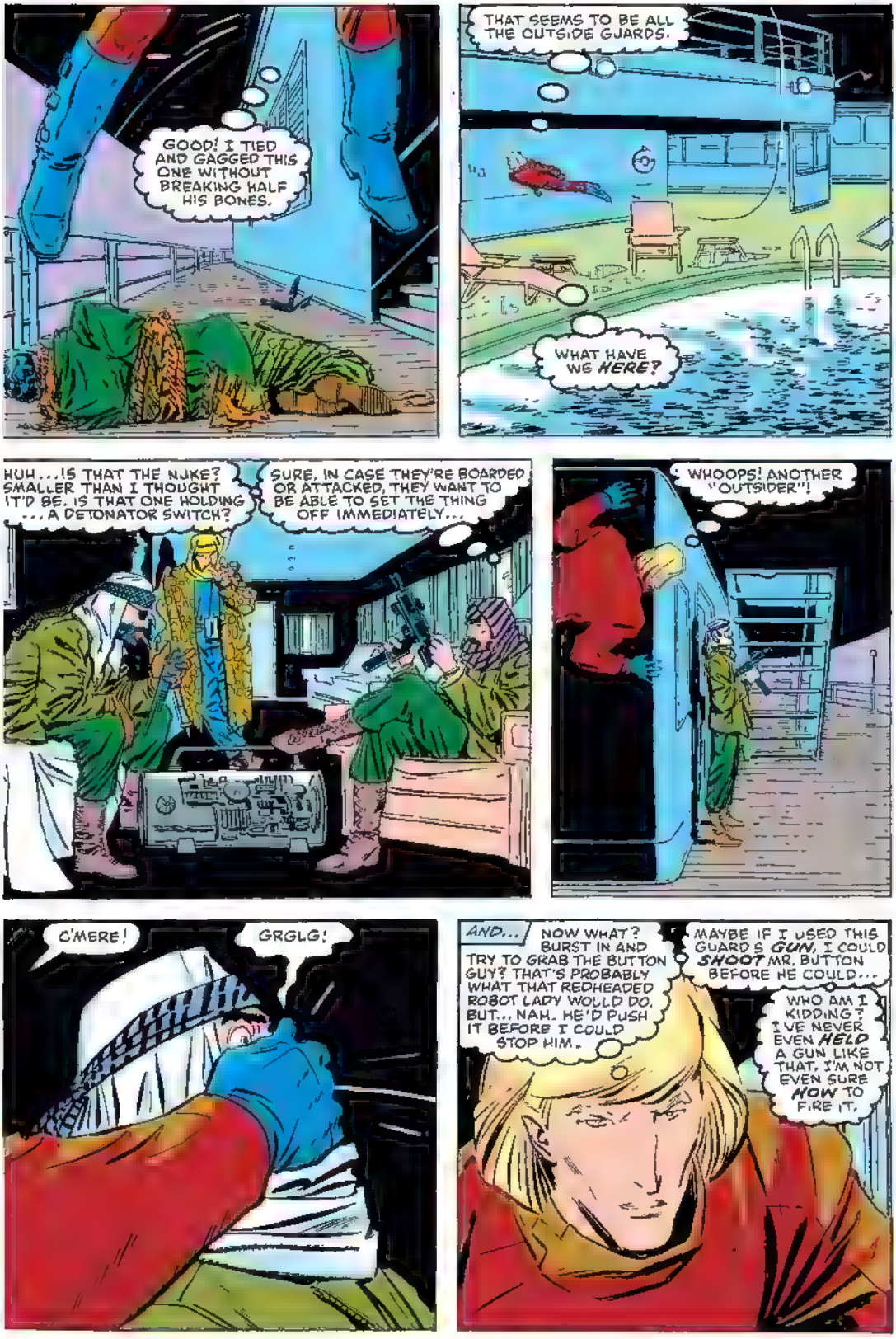
AGGHH!
OH, LORD--! I FORGOT HOW STRONG I AM-- HIT HIM TOO HARD!

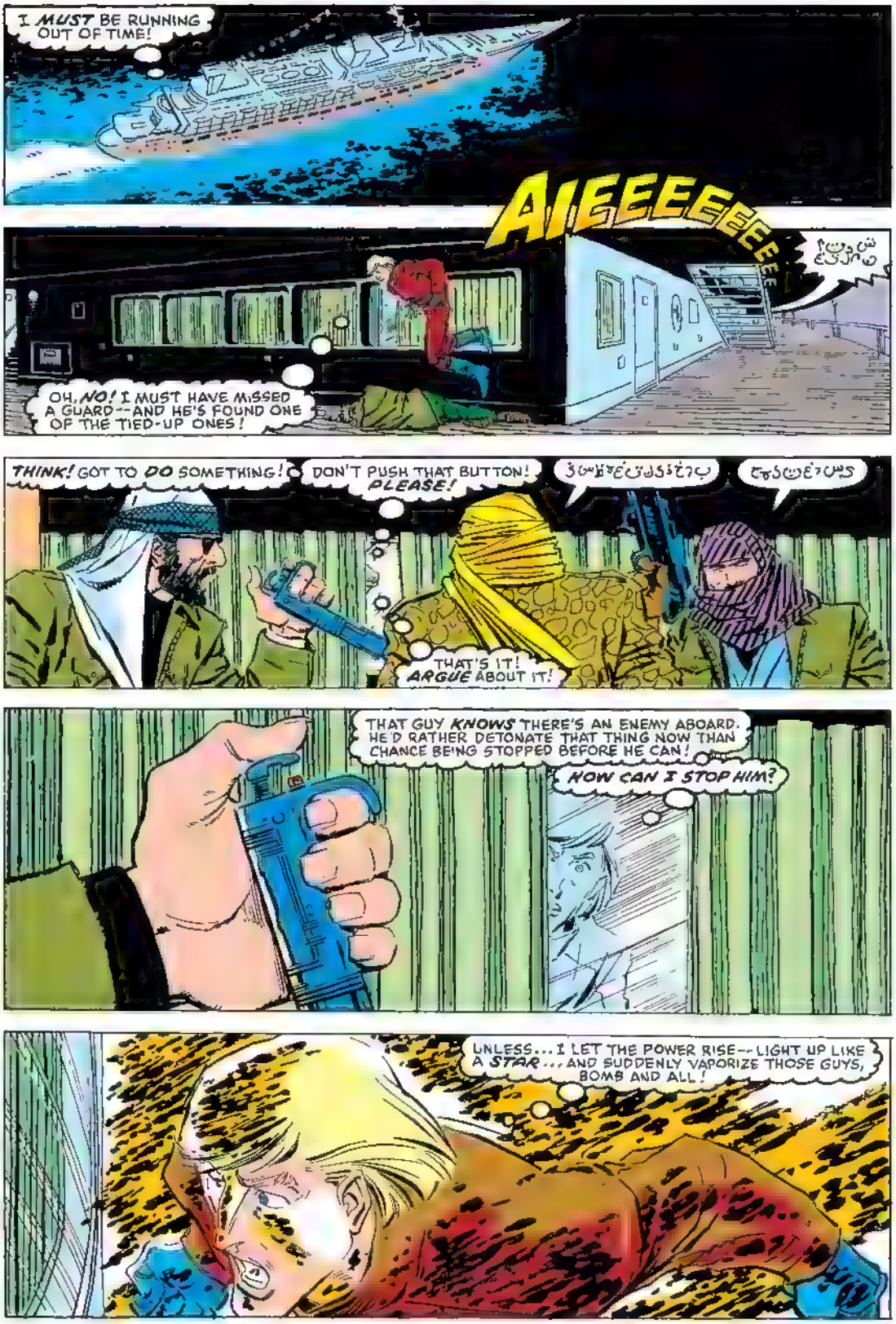
HE'S BLEEDING... GEEZ... BROKEN ARM... SHOULDER ...COLLARBONE... MAYBE SOME RIBS...
COME ON! DEEP BREATHS... CAN'T GET SICK. NO TIME. FIGHT IT.
I GOTTA NOT THROW UP...
SHH! SHH!
GOTTA GAG HIM. TIE HIM UP. HOW? HE'S SO... BROKEN UP. IT'LL HURT HIM MORE, MAYBE- KILL HIM! BUT...
NO CHOICE.
UHHHHHHH!

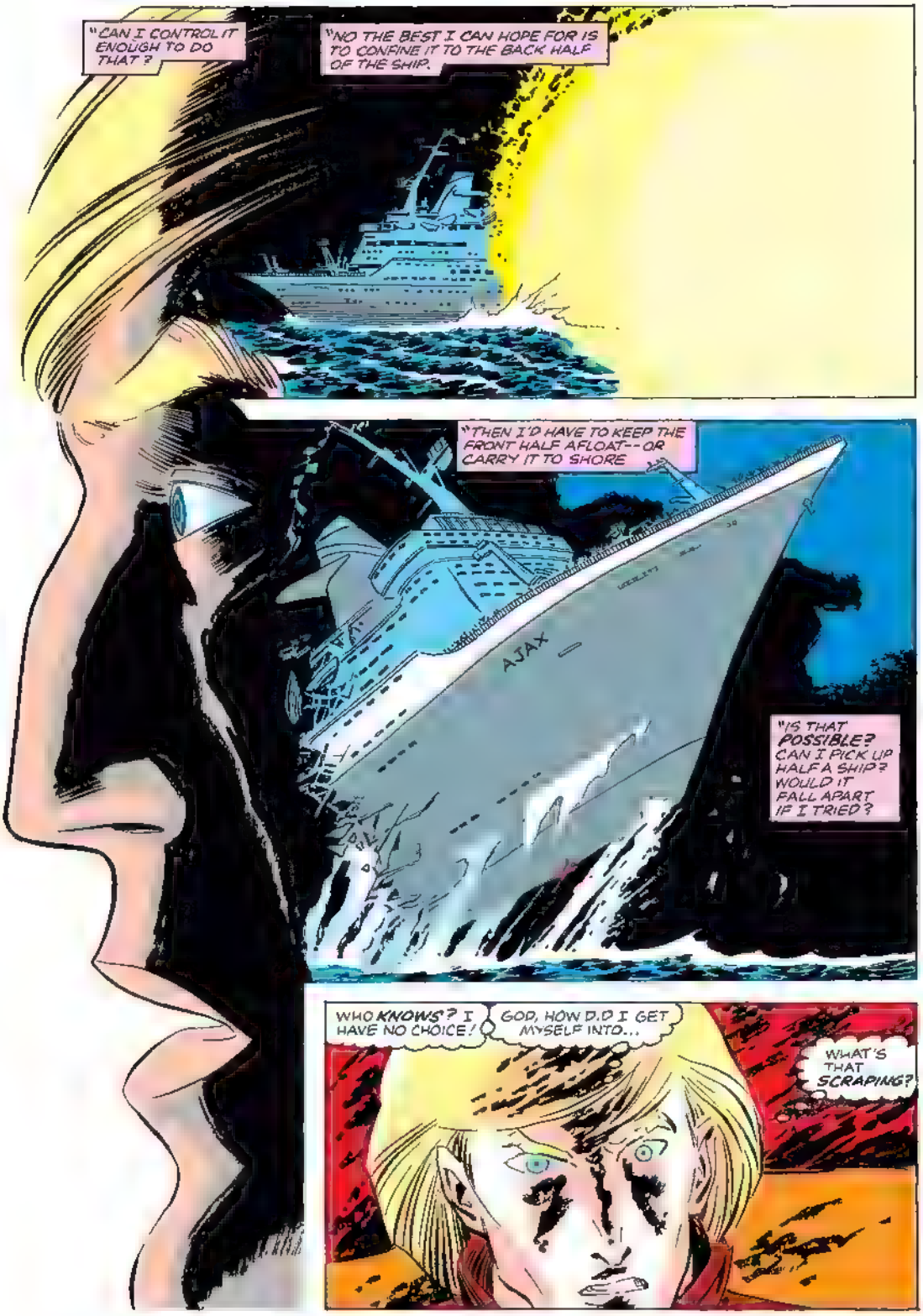

HANDS ARE SHAKING. COME ON! GET IT TOGETHER. THIS GUY WANTS TO NUKE NEW YORK...
I THINK...
IF THERE ARE OTHER GUARDS OUT ON DECK, I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE I SEE THEM BEFORE THEY SEE ME.

THERE'S ONE; I'LL JUST QUIETLY FLOAT UP BEHIND HIM...

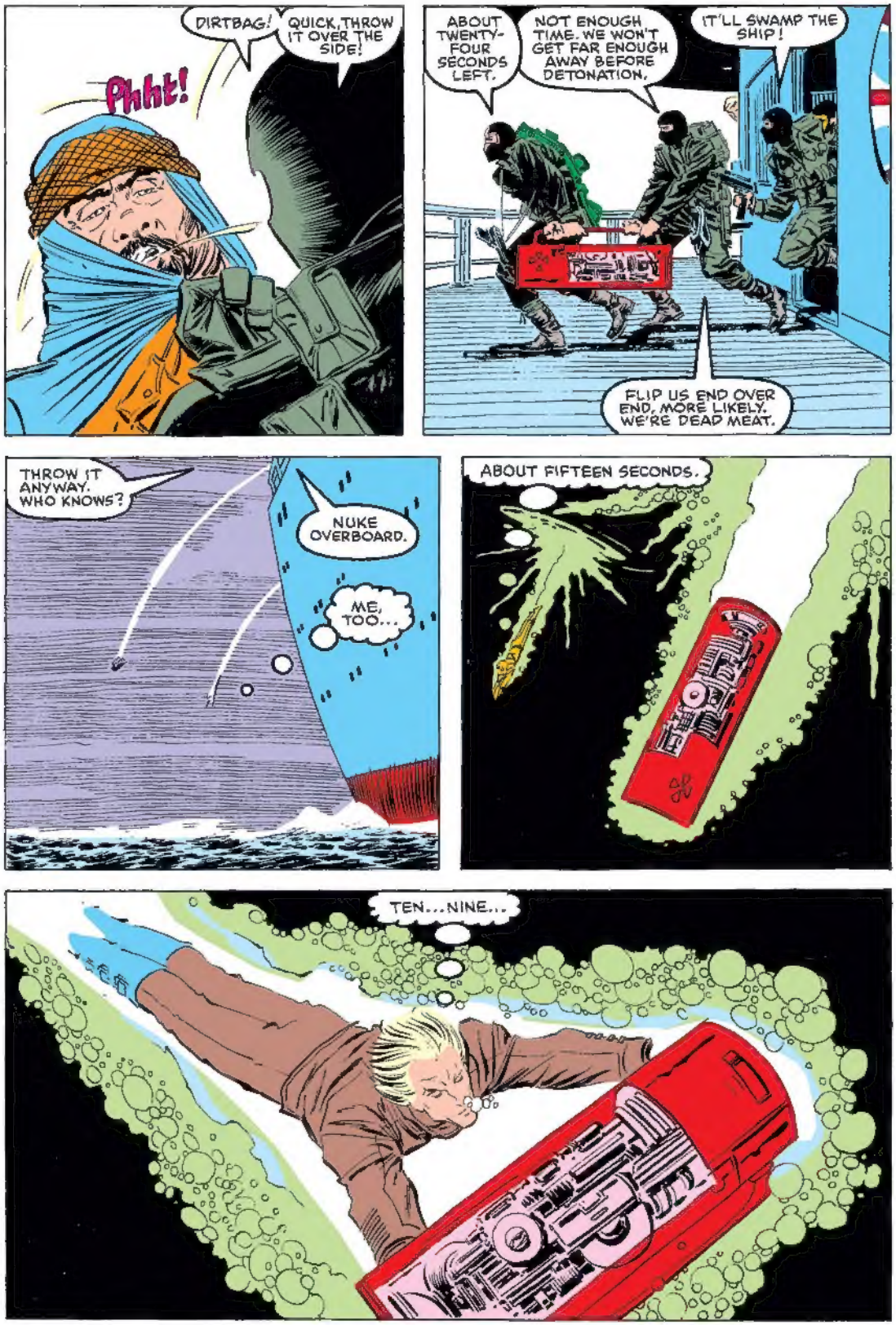
GOTCHA!
GO AHEAD AND BITE MY HAND, PAL. YOU CAN'T HURT IT!
MNFF!

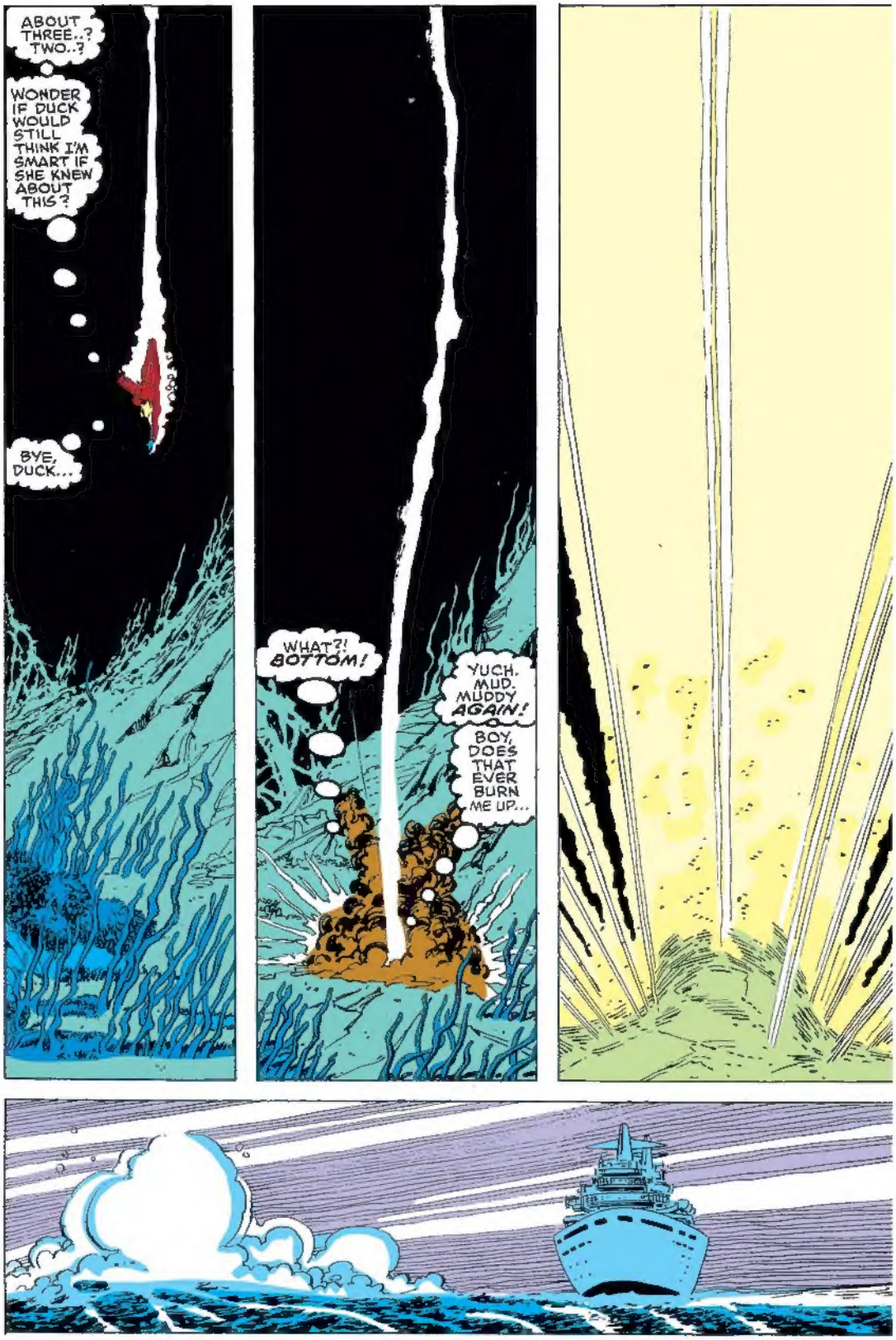

GOOD! I TIED AND GAGGED THIS ONE WITHOUT BREAKING HALF HIS BONES.
THAT SEEMS TO BE ALL THE OUTSIDE GUARDS.
WHAT HAVE WE *HERE?*
HUH...IS THAT THE NUKE? SMALLER THAN I THOUGHT IT'D BE. IS THAT ONE HOLDING ...A DETONATOR SWITCH?
SURE. IN CASE THEY'RE BOARDED OR ATTACKED, THEY WANT TO BE ABLE TO SET THE THING OFF IMMEDIATELY...
WHOOPS! ANOTHER "OUTSIDER"!
C'MERE!
GRGLG!
AND... NOW WHAT? BURST IN AND TRY TO GRAB THE BUTTON GUY? THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT THAT REDHEADED ROBOT LADY WOULD DO. BUT... NAH. HE'D PUSH IT BEFORE I COULD STOP HIM.
MAYBE IF I USED THIS GUARD'S *GUN*, I COULD *SHOOT* MR. BUTTON BEFORE HE COULD...
WHO AM I KIDDING? I'VE NEVER EVEN *HELD* A GUN LIKE THAT, I'M NOT EVEN SURE *HOW* TO FIRE IT.

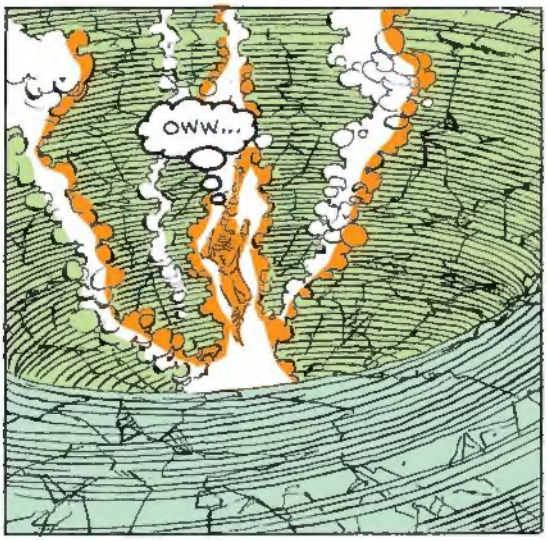

I MUST BE RUNNING OUT OF TIME!
AIEEEEEEEEE!
OH, NO! I MUST HAVE MISSED A GUARD--AND HE'S FOUND ONE OF THE TIED-UP ONES!
THINK! GOT TO DO SOMETHING!
DON'T PUSH THAT BUTTON! PLEASE!
THAT'S IT! ARGUE ABOUT IT!
THAT GUY KNOWS THERE'S AN ENEMY ABOARD. HE'D RATHER DETONATE THAT THING NOW THAN CHANCE BEING STOPPED BEFORE HE CAN!
NOW CAN I STOP HIM?
UNLESS... I LET THE POWER RISE--LIGHT UP LIKE A STAR... AND SUDDENLY VAPORIZE THOSE GUYS, BOMB AND ALL!

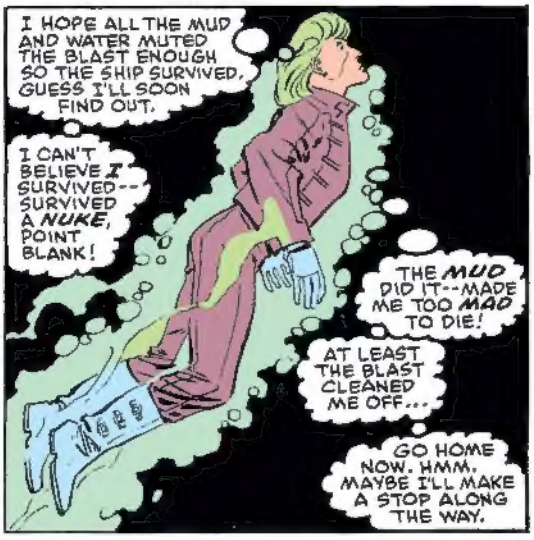

"CAN I CONTROL IT ENOUGH TO DO THAT?
"NO THE BEST I CAN HOPE FOR IS TO CONFINE IT TO THE BACK HALF OF THE SHIP.
"THEN I'D HAVE TO KEEP THE FRONT HALF AFLOAT--OR CARRY IT TO SHORE
AJAX
"IS THAT POSSIBLE? CAN I PICK UP HALF A SHIP? WOULD IT FALL APART IF I TRIED?
WHO KNOWS? I HAVE NO CHOICE!
GOD, HOW D.D I GET MYSELF INTO...
WHAT'S THAT SCRAPING?

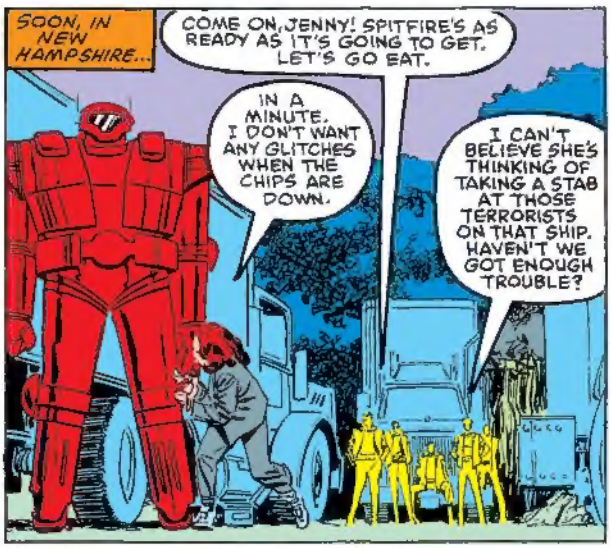
HOLY COW! GUYS COMING OVER THE SIDE! COMMANDOES!
BRAK!
CLICK
BRAP
RAP
RAP
RAP
RAP!
ARRHH!
GNNG!
HE PUSHED THE BUTTON!
HE PUSHED IT.
PROBABLY HAS A SIXTY-SECOND SAFETY DELAY IN CASE OF ACCIDENTAL...
YEAH. GET THE DISARM CODE OUT OF HIM.
...OR ELSE!


DIRTBAG!
QUICK, THROW IT OVER THE SIDE!
Phht!
ABOUT TWENTY-FOUR SECONDS LEFT.
NOT ENOUGH TIME. WE WON'T GET FAR ENOUGH AWAY BEFORE DETONATION.
IT'LL SWAMP THE SHIP!
FLIP US END OVER END, MORE LIKELY. WE'RE DEAD MEAT.
THROW IT ANYWAY. WHO KNOWS?
NUKE OVERBOARD.
ME, TOO...
ABOUT FIFTEEN SECONDS.
TEN...NINE...

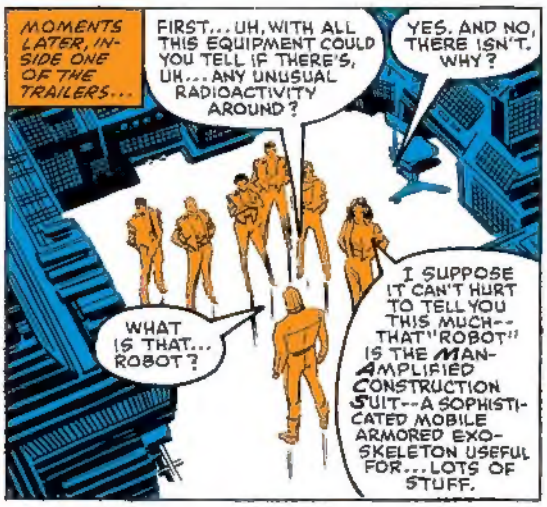

ABOUT THREE..? TWO..?
WONDER IF DUCK WOULD STILL THINK I'M SMART IF SHE KNEW ABOUT THIS?
BYE, DUCK...
WHAT?! BOTTOM!
YUCH. MUD. MUDDY AGAIN!
BOY, DOES THAT EVER BURN ME UP...

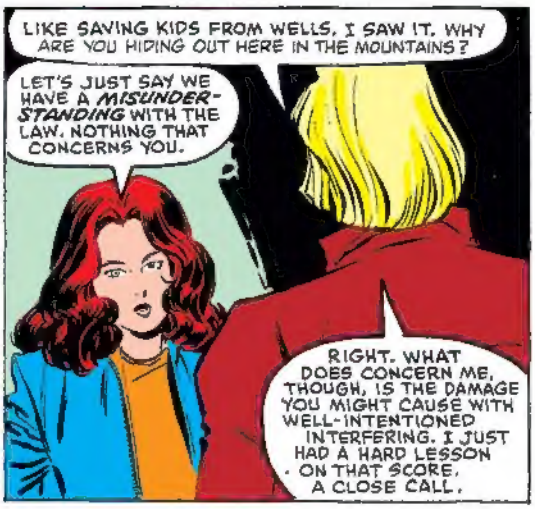

OWW...


I HOPE ALL THE MUD AND WATER MUTED THE BLAST ENOUGH SO THE SHIP SURVIVED. GUESS I'LL SOON FIND OUT.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I SURVIVED--SURVIVED A NUKE, POINT BLANK!
THE MUD DID IT--MADE ME TOO MAD TO DIE!
AT LEAST THE BLAST CLEANED ME OFF...
GO HOME NOW. HMM. MAYBE I'LL MAKE A STOP ALONG THE WAY.

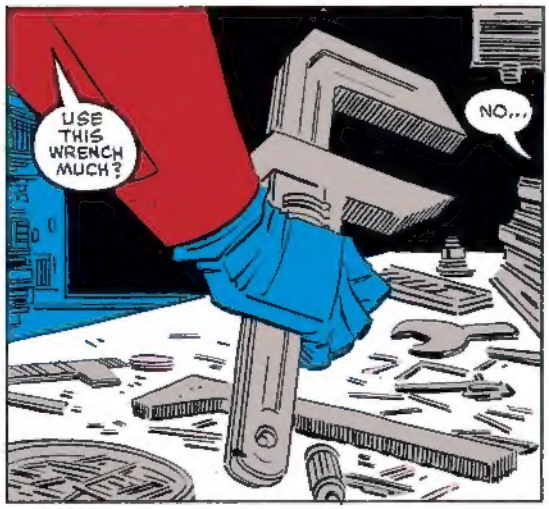

SOON, IN NEW HAMPSHIRE...
COME ON, JENNY! SPITFIRE'S AS READY AS IT'S GOING TO GET. LET'S GO EAT.
IN A MINUTE. I DON'T WANT ANY GLITCHES WHEN THE CHIPS ARE DOWN.
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S THINKING OF TAKING A STAB AT THOSE TERRORISTS ON THAT SHIP. HAVEN'T WE GOT ENOUGH TROUBLE?

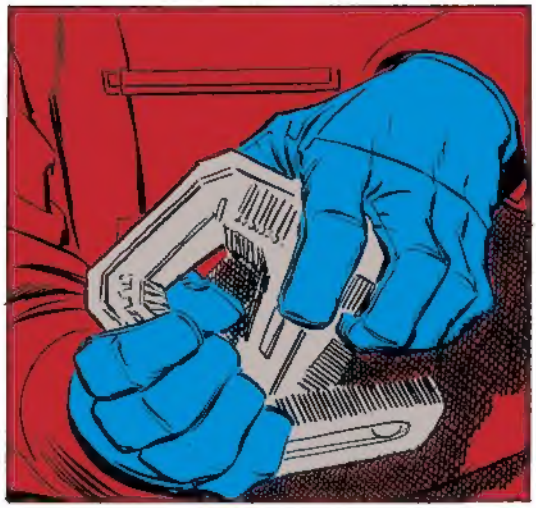
NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THE SHIP. IT WAS RESCUED. SOME COMMANDO GROUP.
YEAH? PROBABLY DELTA FORCE. BUT WHO ARE YOU, PAL?
SOMEONE WHO KNOWS A LOT ABOUT YOU AND THAT ...ROBOT SUIT, SO NO GAMES, HUH? LET'S TALK.

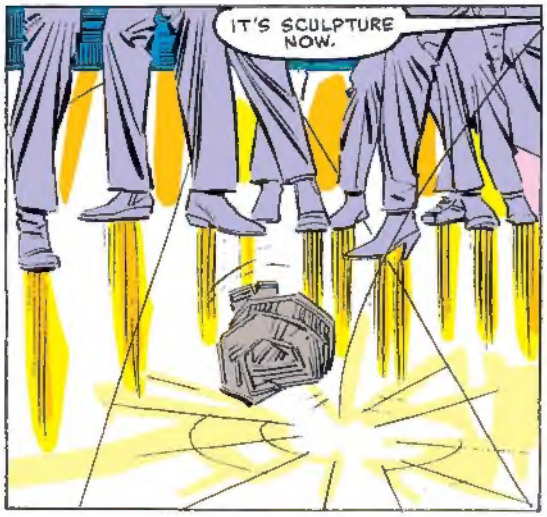

MOMENTS LATER, INSIDE ONE OF THE TRAILERS...
FIRST... UH, WITH ALL THIS EQUIPMENT COULD YOU TELL IF THERE'S, UH... ANY UNUSUAL RADIOACTIVITY AROUND?
YES. AND NO, THERE ISN'T. WHY?
WHAT IS THAT... ROBOT?
I SUPPOSE IT CAN'T HURT TO TELL YOU THIS MUCH--THAT "ROBOT" IS THE MAN-AMPLIFIED CONSTRUCTION SUIT--A SOPHISTICATED MOBILE ARMORED EXO-SKELETON USEFUL FOR... LOTS OF STUFF.


LIKE SAVING KIDS FROM WELLS, I SAW IT. WHY ARE YOU HIDING OUT HERE IN THE MOUNTAINS?
LET'S JUST SAY WE HAVE A MISUNDERSTANDING WITH THE LAW. NOTHING THAT CONCERNS YOU.
RIGHT. WHAT DOES CONCERN ME, THOUGH, IS THE DAMAGE YOU MIGHT CAUSE WITH WELL-INTENTIONED INTERFERING. I JUST HAD A HARD LESSON ON THAT SCORE. A CLOSE CALL.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE CHARGE OF SOME SITUATION --JUST BE AWARE OF ALL THAT CAN GO WRONG...ALL THE POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES AND WHO'S GOING TO BEAR THEM.
THINK ABOUT IT.
HOME.
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
NOT YET, MISTER. IT'S OUR TURN FOR QUESTIONS. YOU'RE GOING NOWHERE UNTIL WE GET SOME ANSWERS!


USE THIS WRENCH MUCH?
NO...




IT'S SCULPTURE NOW.

SEE YOU AROUND.
OY.

LATER...
...DARING RESCUE OF THE CRUISE SHIP AJAX BY A DELTA FORCE ANTI-TERRORIST SQUADRON. A PENTAGON SPOKESMAN SAID NO NUCLEAR DEVICE WAS FOUND ON BOARD. PASSENGERS REPORTED HEARING A SMALL MUFFLED EXPLOSION, POSSIBLY A GRENADE THROWN OVERBOARD DURING THE SCUFFLE.
NEXT: CLOSE ENCOUNTER